

XVI. *The lepidopterous genus Cocytia.* By ARTHUR  
G. BUTLER, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

[Read May 7th, 1884.]

THE genus *Cocytia* was founded by Dr. Boisduval in 1829: he says of it (Mon. Zyg., p. 4), "Je l'ai établi sur un très-bel insecte rapporté de la Nouvelle-Guinée par M. le capitaine Durville"; and he refers it to the *Zygænidaë*.

In 1874 Dr. Boisduval published his "Monographie des Agaristidées" in the 'Revue et Magasin de Zoologie,' pp. 26—110, and he there erected a tribe *Cocytides* for the reception of the single species *Cocytia durvillei*.

In February, 1875, I published "Notes on certain genera of *Agaristidæ*, with descriptions of new species," in the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History,' pp. 135—144; in this paper I raised the species to the rank of a family *Cocytiidæ*, to be placed between the *Agaristidæ* and *Zygænidaë*, and at the same time I added the description of a second species from the Aru Islands, *C. chlorosoma*.

The family *Cocytiidæ* is characterised by its long erect palpi, unusually developed in the female so as to resemble the palpi, in some species, of the Noctuid genus *Ophideres*; in its antennæ it more nearly resembles the *Castniidæ* than either the *Agaristidæ* or *Zygænidaë*, but even more closely some genera of *Hesperiidæ*; these organs are long, straight, gradually clubbed towards the distal extremity, and then tapering and curved at the tip; the body is as robust as in the most powerful Bombyces, and the form, transparency and coloration of the wings, reminds one vividly of the Sphingid genus *Hemaris*; the neuration, however, though in some respects like that of *Hemaris*, yet shows certain features characteristic of the transparent-winged *Zygænidaë*.

The one genus yet known has, so far, consisted of  
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two species, to which I now have to add a third (lent to me for description by my friend Walter de Rothschild); it was obtained by Mr. Veitch's collector, Charles Curtis, at Batehian, and, at Mr. Rothschild's request, I name it *C. veitchii*.

The characters of the three species of *Cocytia* can be best indicated by a key thus:—

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| a. Wings hyaline-white, with broad black borders and thickened black internervular streaks gradually tapering from the external border; reddish orange subbasal patch on primaries large .. .. | <i>C. durvillei</i> .  |
| b. Wings hyaline-white, with narrow black external borders; internervular streaks narrower and emitted abruptly from the external border; reddish orange subbasal patch small and rounded ..   | <i>C. chlorosoma</i> . |
| c. Wings hyaline-yellowish, with narrow black external borders; internervular streaks emitted abruptly; reddish orange subbasal patch large .. ..  | <i>C. veitchii</i> .   |

The following are the species:—

### 1. *Cocytia durvillei*.

*Cocytia durvillei*, Boisduval, Mon. Zyg., p. 22, pl. i., fig. 1 (1829); Sp. Gén. Lep., i., pl. 15, fig. 1 (1858).

Male and female, New Guinea; male, Port Moresby; female, Ké Dulan; B. M.

### 2. *Cocytia chlorosoma*.

*Cocytia chlorosoma*, Butler, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 4, vol. 15, p. 144 (1875).

Male, Aru, B. M.

We only possess two male examples of this species.

### 3. *Cocytia veitchii*, n. s.

As large as *C. durvillei*, but the wings of a transparent yellowish colour (not due to scales, as these are absent from the clear portions of the wing-surface), the black external borders narrow as in *C. chlorosoma*, the rays or intermediate streaks being emitted abruptly as in that species, so that the inner edge of the external border is not sinuated as in *C. durvillei*; primaries with the orange subbasal patch as large as in the latter species, and of a similar

form; centre of the abdomen of a more golden metallic-green than in either the New Guinea or the Aru species. Expanse of wings, 89 mm.

Batchian (*C. Curtis*). Coll. W. Rothschild.

It will be seen, from the foregoing description, that this species, though differing from *C. durvillei* and *C. chlorosoma* in its yellower wings, is in other respects intermediate in character.